

Health Risk Behaviors Among High School-Aged Youth National and Montana Comparisons of Selected Elements

Sources: 2003 U.S. and 1999, 2001, 2003 and 2005 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Surveys (OPI)

Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data (percent of students who)	Montana 1999¹	Montana 2001¹	Montana 2003¹	Montana 2005¹	U.S. 2003¹
Drove a car when they had been drinking alcohol in the past 30 days	22.7	21.8	20.4	18.5	12.1
Carried a weapon in the past 30 days	20.3	21.4	19.4	21.4	17.1
Carried a gun in the past 30 days	8.6	9.0	8.7	9.0	6.1
Carried a weapon on school property in the past 30 days	9.2	8.7	7.2	10.2	6.1
Did not go to school in the past 30 days because they felt unsafe	3.0	5.5	3.4	4.2	5.4
Were in a physical fight in the past 12 months	32.1	31.6	28.6	30.5	33.0
Actually attempted suicide in the past 12 months	6.7	10.4	9.7	10.3	8.5
Ever smoked a cigarette (lifetime use)	70.3	66.5	61.0	55.4	58.4
Are "current" smokers (smoked on 1 or more of the previous 30 days)	35.0	28.5	22.9	20.1	21.9
Ever smoked daily (at least 1 cigarette every day for 30 days)	26.1	23.2	17.3	15.2	15.8
Are "frequent" smokers (smoked on 20 or more of the previous 30 days)	18.0	14.9	10.8	8.8	9.7
Are "current" smokeless tobacco users (used chew or smokeless tobacco on 1 or more of the previous 30 days)	18.2	15.7	13.2	14.8	6.7
Ever had consumed alcohol (lifetime alcohol use)	86.1	82.9	81.1	77.8	74.9
Are "current" alcohol users (drank alcohol on 1 or more of the previous 30 days)	57.6	54.1	49.5	48.6	44.9
"Binge" drink (consumed 5 or more drinks at one occasion during the previous 30 days)	43.6	41.4	37.3	34.4	28.3

Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data (percent of students who)	Montana 1999¹	Montana 2001¹	Montana 2003¹	Montana 2005¹	U.S. 2003¹
Ever used marijuana (lifetime marijuana use)	45.0	46.7	43.9	41.7	40.2
Are “current” marijuana users (used marijuana 1 or more times in the previous 30 days)	25.5	27.1	23.1	22.3	22.4
Ever used inhalants (lifetime inhalant use)	16.5	15.0	13.8	15.4	12.1
Ever used methamphetamines (lifetime use)	13.5	12.6	9.3	8.3	7.6
Ever had sexual intercourse	42.5	43.9	43.6	43.6	46.7
Are currently sexually active (had sexual intercourse in the past 3 months)	29.2	30.7	29.9	31.2	34.3
Of those who ever had sex, the percent who used alcohol or drugs before last sexual intercourse	34.5	32.0	33.7	29.4	25.4
Are overweight (95 th percentile for body mass)	5.5	6.1	8.1	9.3	12.1
Are attempting to lose weight	40.2	42.0	41.6	42.6	43.8
Participated in vigorous physical activity (3+ days in past 7)	69.5	67.6	62.3	65.0	62.6
Watch 3 or more hours of TV on a school night	24.4	23.5	25.3	26.3	38.2
Used alcohol before age 13	33.4	35.2	30.4	27.8	27.8
Smoked a cigarette before age 13	24.7	25.0	20.7	17.6	18.3
Tried marijuana before age 13	11.8	12.3	11.0	11.2	9.9
Had sexual intercourse before age 13	5.3	5.3	5.9	5.1	7.4

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¹ These data are statistically valid and can be used to make inferences about the health risk behaviors of all high school students in all high schools in Montana.